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THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

The first session of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish was held on December 30 in the ballroom of the Franklin Square Hotel, Washington, D. C., with Professor Henry Grattan Doyle, President of the Washington Chapter, presiding.

Professor Doyle presented the first speaker, Dean W. A. Wilbur, of the George Washington University, who in the absence of President Hodgkins, extended a cordial welcome to the members of the Association on behalf of the city and of the university. Dean Wilbur cited the fact that of the forty embassies and legations in the city of Washington, five embassies and thirteen legations were Spanish-speaking, thus making Washington one of the centers of Spanish culture in the United States.

The meeting was then turned over to the President of the Association, John D. Fitz-Gerald, who acknowledged the gracious welcome extended by Dean Wilbur. He then read a letter from the former President of the Association, Lawrence A. Wilkins, from Madrid, in which the latter spoke of the deep appreciation of the work of the Association which he had found among the educational leaders in Spain. Mr. Wilkins sent greetings to all the members and a call to increase the membership to 2,000 during the present year.

In his address, the President reviewed the history of the Association during its four years of existence and also reviewed the activities of its members, calling attention to the various kinds of publications of many of the members; to the participation of members of the Association in Trade Conventions; participation in the courses of the Centro de Estudios Históricos in Madrid, as well as in the summer session courses of the Universities of Mexico and Venezuela. In speaking of the official organ of the Association, HISPANIA, the President acknowledged the debt of the Association to the Editor, A. M. Espinosa; to the Secretary-Treasurer, Alfred Coester, and the Advertising Manager, Erwin W. Roessler, for their faithful work, which had made it possible for the editorial board to announce that hereafter the number of pages of printed matter in each issue of HISPANIA would be increased from 54 to 64. The members were urged to cooperate with the different departments of HISPANIA, sending to the associate editors in charge of such departments personal news items

and reports of local chapters. President Fitz-Gerald closed his address with a hopeful message for the future of the organization and with the stirring words of Joaquín Miller's poem, "Columbus":

"Sail on! Sail on! And on!"

Before presenting the next speaker, the President announced that word had been received that the title, *Comendador con Placa de la Real Orden de Isabel la Católica*, had been bestowed by his Majesty, Alfonso XIII, upon the former President of the Association, Lawrence A. Wilkins; and that a similar honor had been bestowed upon a fellow hispanist, Professor Wm. R. Shepherd of the Department of History of Columbia University.

In a most scholarly address, His Excellency Juan Riaño y Gayangos, Ambassador from Spain to the United States, reviewed the university movement in Spain from its earliest history down to the recent decree restoring autonomy to Spanish universities.

Miss Carolina Marcial Dorado spoke in her usually charming manner on the topic, *La mujer española*, voicing her earnest desire to make known to the women of America the women of Spain, and to carry the message of American womanhood to the women of Spain. Miss Marcial traced the history of woman's influence in the cultural life of Spain since the time when Isabel la Católica had befriended the discoverer of America.

Music for the morning session was furnished by Señorita Estrella Amores, who gave a charming group of Spanish songs, "Vuelvè" and "Soñando," and Señor Arsenio Ralón, who gave two delightful violin numbers. Miss Alice Burkhead sang "La Golondrina," Señor Ralón playing the accompaniment.

In the absence of Professor John Van Horn of the University of Illinois, his paper, "The Attitude of the Spanish Narrative Poets Toward the American Indians," was read as the first address of the afternoon session by Mrs. Babcock, of the Joliet Junior College, Illinois. This paper showed that Ercilla and other poets who described the Araucanian Indians of Chile showed a remarkable spirit of appreciation for the bravery and patriotism of the Indians. This spirit was mixed with some epic conventions and some indications of Indian savagery. Poets who described events in other parts of the New World devoted comparatively little attention to the Indians, although there is some evidence even here, partly friendly and partly hostile.

Afternoon Session, December 30

In the afternoon session, which was held in the Law School of the George Washington University, Mrs. Maude Wood Park spoke in behalf of the National League of Women Voters and their plans in connection with the Conference of Pan-American Women to be held in Baltimore April 20-29, 1922, to which the State Department has asked the Central and South American states to send delegates. Mrs. Park pointed out that the members of the Association could be of great assistance by sending in names of Spanish-American women living in the United States, also names of women students in the United States, by sending in names of Spanish-American organizations, by making known to the chapters the work of the Conference. The speaker also bespoke assistance in interpreting during the Conference. Representation in the Conference includes the government appointee, representatives of organizations, individual women who may come from their states, and also Spanish-American women residing in this country. Information may be sent to 918 Munsey Building, Washington, D. C. The following resolution was presented by Professor E. C. Hills, of Indiana University, and adopted by the Association:

WHEREAS, the coming Pan-American Conference of Women, called by the National League of Women Voters, to be held in Baltimore in April, which has the approval of government departments and the backing of the Pan-American Union, will be in the interest of a closer relationship between the Pan-American countries, be it

Resolved, That the American Association of Teachers of Spanish heartily endorses the calling of such a Conference, and that the Presidents of the local chapters of the Association throughout the United States be urged to coöperate with the League of Women Voters in any way possible, to make the Conference a success.

Sr. Francisco Javier Yanes, Assistant Director of the Pan-American Union, delivered an interesting address in his usual happy vein, eulogizing his fellow-countryman, Andrés Bello, and describing the gratifying progress in knowledge of things Spanish since his arrival in this country thirty years ago, when he was asked whether Caracas was in Cuba. Reference was made to the increased acquaintance with Spanish art, music, and drama, and to the work of the Hispanic Society of America and the other agencies for the interchange of ideas.

Speaking on the subject, *Spanish for Culture*, Professor Henry Grattan Doyle maintained that Spanish for culture should be the

basis of our stand against the attitude of those educators who stand against Spanish as a requirement in the curriculum, and urged that the commercial value of the language should be regarded as merely an additional value. If only the commercial value is to be emphasized, there can be little justification for teaching Spanish to the many. Professor Doyle presented the humanistic argument that it is the function of Spanish teaching to make the Spanish mind known to the American mind, and that the student so equipped will retain the cultural value of his study of the language long after other features of the course have vanished.

Discussion of this paper was led by Professor Hendrix, of Columbus, who agreed with Professor Doyle, and added the point that the business man who would make successful use of his Spanish must be equipped with a cultural training, in addition to a commercial training, in order to understand his Spanish neighbor and do business with him.

Professor J. Moreno Lacalle, of Middlebury College, read the report for the Committee on Realia. The report indicated the kinds of realia which could profitably be used in the different years of instruction and closed with a motion that a committee be appointed whose duty should be to buy realia for the members, the committee to consist of members who expected to spend some time in Spanish countries. Motion seconded and carried. A motion was then made by Mr. Madison Stathers that the report of this committee be printed. The motion was seconded and carried.

In the absence of Professor Arthur Hamilton, of the University of Illinois, his paper on *The Grotesque Element in the Eighteenth Century Sainete* was read by Professor Hendrix, of Ohio State University. Professor Hamilton's paper presented an interesting study of the evolution of the *entremes* into the *sainete*. Ramón de la Cruz and his disciple, Castillo, reworked the *entremes*, making it a serious play. Specifically this paper tried to show that the two Spanish writers of *sainetes*, Cruz and Castillo, largely abandoned the conventional "gracioso" of the Golden Age, in favor of a pseudo-gracioso type. This type was found in the preceding century, but was unknown to both writers. The distinguishing feature of this new "gracioso" is that instead of being the clever rascal or the fool of the Golden Age dramatists, he is "gracioso" solely because of his unfamiliarity with the milieu in which he finds himself.

Due to the lateness of the hour, the last paper on the program was postponed to a later session.

The evening session of December 30 was held in the banquet room of the Franklin Square Hotel, where more than fifty members enjoyed a delightful banquet.

Dr. John J. Tigert, U. S. Commissioner of Education, made a felicitous speech, replete with anecdotes, expressing his cordial approval of any influence making for better international relations through better understanding.

His Excellency, D. Beltrán Mathieu, Ambassador from Chile, was introduced by our President, Professor John D. Fitz-Gerald, in fluent Castilian. Señor Mathieu gave a delightful address on the contribution of Chile to Spanish letters from the time of Ercilla to the present.

The morning session of December 31 was held in the Law Building of the George Washington University, with the President, John D. Fitz-Gerald, in the chair. The President announced the appointment of Professor J. P. W. Crawford, of Philadelphia, and Miss Josephine W. Holt, of Richmond, Virginia, as members of the Auditing Committee. The first paper of the morning was read by Professor Julio Mercado of the Commercial High School, Brooklyn, on the subject, *Errores comunes de traducción con relación al estudio del español*. Professor Mercado cited four main reasons for the failure of students to translate accurately: (1) lack of time, i. e., the impossibility of giving adequate instruction in interpretation of a foreign language in short class period to thirty or forty students; (2) ignorance of the syntax and grammar of the English language which prevents the student from taking advantage of such similarities as exist; (3) omissions in the textbooks such as the inadequate presentation in the grammars of the passive voice and the gerund, also incomplete vocabularies; (4) the failure of the student to understand that Spanish is a language distinct from his own.

The paper prepared by Professor George Irving Dale, of Washington University, St. Louis, on the topic, *The Function of the Textbook Reviewer*, was read by Professor Kenniston, of Cornell. In this paper Professor Dale showed that the great demand for Spanish instruction had caused the market to be flooded with hastily and poorly prepared textbooks. In communities where there are inadequate library facilities both teacher and pupils are dependent upon the textbook for information. "Therefore, to be efficient tools for both master and apprentice, Spanish textbooks should be examined and approved

before they are used. It is the function of the textbook reviewer to analyze critically, minutely, the complete work, paying attention to every detail, pointing out the good qualities, the errors, defects, omissions, and misprints in order that the profession at large may derive benefit therefrom."

In a very interesting address on the topic, *Facilities for the Advanced Study of Spanish*, Professor J. P. Wickersham Crawford, of the University of Pennsylvania, stated his conviction that a large number of colleges failed to offer courses in Spanish, beyond the second-year work, comparable to courses offered in French. He also pointed out the scarcity of courses for graduate study, the omission of courses in historical Spanish grammar, which should be the basis of all advanced study of Spanish, and the lack of advanced texts. Professor Crawford urged all teachers of Spanish to take advantage of such courses as are offered in our own summer schools and, if possible, those offered in Spanish-speaking countries. Although many can not have the advantage of residence abroad, all can keep up with the published work of Spanish countries. In conclusion Professor Crawford pleaded for additional courses in the college curriculum, more courses of advanced grades.

Following this paper, the business meeting of the Association was held. The report of the Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Alfred Coester, of Stanford University, was read and adopted. The report of the Auditing Committee that the books had been examined and approved was heard and adopted. The nominations of the Committee on Honorary Members to elect Clemente Palma, of Perú, and Antonio Batres Jáuregui, of Guatemala, as honorary members were unanimously voted.

The President reported to the Association the action of the Executive Council in recommending the survey of schools proposed by the National Federation of Modern Language Teachers. Also discussed the proposal to affiliate with the National Association of Modern Language Teachers. This matter was discussed at length and not settled at this time.

The suggestion of Professor Espinosa contained in *HISPANIA*, Volume IV, No. 6, page 284, to take action in the direction of official coöperation with the Centro of Madrid, was discussed. Objection was raised to giving the approval of the Association to the work of any one school or list of schools. A motion was made by R. H. Keniston of Cornell that the Association place itself on record as favor-

ing study in summer schools abroad where special effort is made to meet our needs. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

The President then stated that in order to send a delegate to the Trade Convention it would be necessary to appropriate some money for expenses which the delegates could not reasonably be expected to pay. Professor Crawford, of Pennsylvania, moved that the Executive Committee be empowered to use its own discretion as to the appropriation of funds necessary to send a delegate to the Trade Convention. The motion was seconded and carried.

The motion of Professor Coester contained in the report of the Secretary-Treasurer that an amount corresponding to the amount of the life memberships be set aside as a sinking fund was seconded and voted in the affirmative.

The President reported four new chapters formed and their constitutions approved by the Executive Council: Columbus, El Paso, Lake Erie, and St. Louis.

The report of the tellers was heard to the effect that the persons nominated in the official ballot had been elected to their respective positions. A motion was made by Professor Doyle that the report of the tellers be adopted. Motion was put by Professor Crawford and carried. The following officers were elected:

President (one-year term)—John D. Fitz-Gerald, University of Illinois.

Third Vice President (one-year term)—E. C. Hills, University of Indiana.

Secretary-Treasurer (two-year term)—Alfred Coester, Stanford University.

Member of Executive Council (one-year term)—A. L. Owen, University of Kansas.

It was moved by Professor Hendrix, of Ohio State, that the Association extend a cordial vote of thanks to Professor Doyle and the local chapter, to the George Washington University and to the Spanish-American Athenaeum for the courtesies extended during the session.

Adjournment.

EDITH JOHNSON,

Secretary pro tem.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,
December 30, 1921, Washington, D. C.

Report was made concerning the vote of the Council in relation to the resolution that was to be sent to the General Education Board supporting a similar resolution, by the Executive Committee of the Federation of Modern Language Teachers.

The proposal made by Professor Espinosa on page 284 in Vol. IV of *HISPANIA* was also recommended for presentation to the annual meeting.

The proposal of Professor Hendrix concerning the expenses of the delegate to the Foreign Annual Trade Convention was recommended for presentation at the annual meeting.

Similar action was taken in connection with Professor Coester's proposal concerning the setting aside of \$600 par value in Liberty Bonds to offset sums paid in life memberships.

The proposal for affiliation with the National Federation of Modern Language Teachers, although approved by a majority of the Executive Council, is by common consent being held up so that we may make a counter proposal, which we think will be more suitable under the circumstances, the question under discussion being the manner of counting the membership of our Association for the purpose of establishing our quota of delegates.

The constitutions of the Columbus local chapter and the El Paso local chapter were approved.

EDITH JOHNSON,
Secretary pro tem.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

The membership of our Association continues to show a gratifying increase. For the year 1921 annual dues were paid by 1,258 persons, and 21 became life members, making the total number of life members 41. There is, however, a marked fluctuation in the personnel of the membership. Our increase can only come from the constant addition of new members.

The financial operations for the year were as follows :

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand from 1920.....	\$276.69	
Dues, sales of HISPANIA and reprints.....	2,932.11	
Advertising in HISPANIA.....	1,106.10	
Interest	25.50	
		<hr/> \$4,340.40

EXPENDITURES

Annual meeting 1920.....	\$36.00	
Expenses of advertising manager.....	17.10	
Expenses of president of Association.....	51.60	
Expenses of editor of HISPANIA.....	33.76	
Expenses of Secretary-Treasurer.....	160.96	
Expenses and fee of delegate to foreign trade convention	27.30	
Refunds	11.00	
Purchase of HISPANIAS for 1918.....	18.50	
Stanford University Press, printing of HISPANIA, notices, wrappers, and stationery.....	3,539.78	
Mailing HISPANIA, regular issues.....	81.26	
		<hr/> 3,977.56
Balance on hand for 1921.....	\$362.84	

This sum does not represent the total credit balance for the year because there is a considerable amount uncollected from the advertisers in the fall numbers of HISPANIA. Great credit is due to the advertising manager, Dr. Erwin W. Roessler, for his activity in increasing the total amount of advertising. (Since the writing of this report Dr. Roessler has sent \$509.60 to the Secretary-Treasurer.)

One reason for the favorable balance for the year should, however, be considered, namely, the payment of about four hundred dollars by new life members. It can not be supposed that these persons were merely paying a sum of money to assist the Association. Moreover, the forty-one life members who must be supplied with HISPANIAS have ceased to be a financial asset. In my opinion a fund should be created which would offset the life memberships in the manner of a sinking fund.

Respectfully submitted,

ALFRED COESTER,
Secretary-Treasurer.